

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Erfried Malle with the local evaluation team in the Afar region, Ethiopia



A visit to the agricultural training centre in Uddayito





The SONNE chairman in conversation with mobile health workers



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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends of SONNE-International,

It gives me great pleasure to present our 2024 Annual Report to you.

It is always an exciting and very positive experience for us when the entire SON-NE team in Vienna gets down to work on the new annual report so that you, dear donors, as well as our project partners and sponsors, can see what we have achieved in the past year.

When we have the finished report in front of us, we are often amazed at how much we have been able to accomplish in our priority countries, despite limited resources and adverse circumstances.

Each SONNE country has its own unique challenges, and each country team faces its own very specific difficulties. This unites us all and brings us closer together.

My hope is that you, dear readers, are also aware that the output of our efforts is considerable. But this is only because we have colleagues and collaborators on the ground who are very close to us and who, together with us, believe in the goodness of humanity, in the need for international solidarity and in the fact that we are all compassionate beings

who are not indifferent to the plight of others and to the global destruction of the environment.

Like everybody else, we are deeply affected by the rapid changes in our current value system. We are concerned and shocked by the crisis-ridden developments in America, the Far East, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, increasingly also in Western Europe and not least in the Global South. Possible horror scenarios worry us deeply.

In these uncertain times, we want to be and remain a reliable and stable partner for all the people we support.

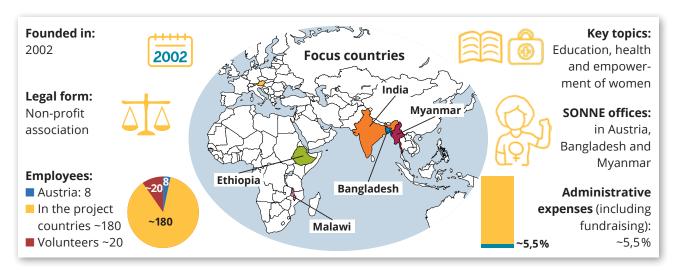
Thank you very much for being part of our stability. It is YOUR support that has made this journey possible!

Yours sincerely

Mag. Erfried Malle Managing Chairman SONNE-International



Our organization at a GLANCE



As an Austrian-based aid organisation, we provide disadvantaged people with access to educational and health facilities in the Global South. In addition, we offer innovative accompanying measures to remote village communities in order to comprehensively support people in their development. In addition to education and health, empowerment of women has been a focus of our projects since SONNE-International was founded.

Our focus countries are Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Malawi. We have carried the **Austrian Donation Seal of Approval** since 2005, and donations made to us have been **tax-deductible** since 2009.

MILLIONS OF CHILDREN WORLDWIDE ARE STILL UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

The Global Sustainability Agenda's education goal is: ,Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning opportunities by 2030.' We have also committed ourselves to this goal. Through our extensive support programmes, we are actively contributing to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in our priority countries.



EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT, HEALTHCARE IS THE BASIS OF LIFE, AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IS IMPERATIVE

In 2024, we directly reached and sustainably supported over 175,000 people through our education, healthcare and women's empowerment programmes.

Our work gave marginalised children access to schooling, improved medical care in remote regions, and promoted the self-determination and economic independence of women and girls in our project regions.

OUR MOTTO IS:

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLDI







SONNE core areas – results in 2024

Focus Area 1 - EDUCATION





Education for 1,850 children through the operation of 28 schools, tutoring, scholarships, creative teaching and educational quality improvement in five countries.

EDUCATION - OUR GOAL:

To support marginalised children through specifically targeted educational programmes. Our educational programmes have helped over 1,850 children.

1 - ONGOING OPERATION OF 27 SONNE SCHOOLS AND EDUCA-TIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In Bangladesh, India and Myanmar, we operate a total of 19 primary schools, 3 day-care centres, 2 secondary schools, 2 school hostels, 1 student residence and a kindergarten, which are attended by over 1,600 children every day.

2 - SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL-CHILDREN

DThrough school and student homes in Bangladesh, tutoring in Myanmar and scholarships in Malawi, we helped **252 schoolchildren** to successfully complete their education.

3 - STRENGTHENING THE HOLIS-TIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN THROUGH CULTURE, CREATIVITY, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

In 2024, we ran **sports programmes** and annual sporting events in Bangladesh and India. **Environmental and cultural education** took place in all our SONNE schools. In addition, around 50 children regularly took part in **computer classes** in Bangladesh, India and Myanmar.

4 – STRENGTHENING EDUCATIONAL SKILLS THROUGH FURTHER TRAIN-ING

In 2024, we supported **95 educational professionals** in Bangladesh, India and Myanmar with further training.

Focus Area 2 -HEALTH



Medical care for approximately 172,280 pe ople through health stations, mobile camps, home visits, educational work and training of specialists in four countries.

HEALTH - OUR GOAL:

Improving the health of marginalised people in the project regions. In total, we carried out **over 275,700 medical treatments and examinations** in Bangladesh, Myanmar, India and Ethiopia.

1 - ONGOING OPERATION OF HEALTH CENTRES AND MOBILE HEALTH CAMPS AS WELL AS HOME VISITS

In 2024, we operated **two stationary health centres** in India and Bangladesh, conducted **56 mobile health camps** in Bangladesh and Myanmar and reached over **12,000 households** in Ethiopia through **home visits**.

2 - ATRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION OF HEALTH PROFES-SIONALS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL HEALTH CAPACITIES In Ethiopia, we trained **296 health professionals** (mobile health workers, traditional birth attendants and women extension workers).

3 - PROMPT AND TARGETED SUP-PORT IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Support for disadvantaged people in medical emergencies (serious illnesses, necessary operations, etc.) in Bangladesh, Myanmar and India..

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT - OUR GOAL:

To empower women and girls so that they can shape their own lives, participate in society on an equal footing and effectively combat gender-based violence. Through education, health care and awareness-raising programmes, we have promoted and supported over 2000 girls and women.

Focus Area 3 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Empowerment of more than 2,000 women and girls through vocational training, obstetric care, health education, self-defence and agricultural support in five countries.

1 - TARGETED TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

In 2024, we helped **453 young women** in Bangladesh, India and Myanmar to build their own livelihoods through tailoring, weaving and computer training programmes.

2 - IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND REDUCING MATERNAL MOR-TALITY THROUGH BIRTH ATTEND-ANCE AND MOBILE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

In Ethiopia, **3,312 births** were medically attended and around **1,800 prenatal and postnatal care sessions** were carried out. We looked after high-risk pregnancies in three waiting areas. **50 mobile health workers** and **36 women extension workers** sensitised girls and women in the areas of pregnancy, menstrual hygiene and family planning.

3 - STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN BY PROMOTING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC PROCESSES

120 women in Ethiopia benefited from agricultural training in 2024. Through their work as multipliers, they gained more prestige in their communities.

4 - COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

142 girls took part in our karate and self-defence courses in India and Bangladesh in 2024. Some of them achieved great success in regional competitions. The project boosts the girls' self-confidence and improves their social status.

4



Our SONNE team at a glance

around the gl



Erfried Malle and the Austrian SONNE team

Austria

Founded in 2002 8 staff members in the core team

> India **Since 2012** 36 staff members

Prashant Kumar, Country Manager, **SONNE India**

Bangladesh Since 2002 108 staff members

> Md. Al Mamun, **Country Director SONNE-Bangladesh**



Malawi Since 2024 3 project employees

Alice Chiwaya, Head of our partner organisation

Ethiopia Since 2005 124 project employees



Valerie Browning, Head of our partner organisation

Myanmak Since 2008 27 staff members

ETHIOPIA/ AFAR-REGION

Project Overview and Background

Project visit to an Afar family in Northern Ethiopia



Since 2005

BENEFICIARIES

Approx. 150,000 people from the Afar ethnicity

PROJECT FOCUS

Mobile medical care
(especially for pregnant
women and mother-child
care), awareness raising
(hygiene, health, female
genital mutilation), emergency aid in crisis situations, agricultural training,
development of women's
cooperatives

PROJECT AREA

Afar Region

LIFE UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS

The **Afar region** (our project area), one of the hottest and driest regions on earth, is predominantly inhabited by the Afar people, who are pastoralists and herders. Many of them still lead a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle.

The civil war in the neighbouring province of Tigray, which severely affected the Afar region, has now ended, but much of the **infrastructure** has been **destroyed** and **instability** remains high: internally displaced people, conflicts with other ethnic groups and disputes over water, animals and other key resources mean that the country is not at peace.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Extreme droughts and the resulting **lack of water and food**, locust plagues, etc. have a dramatic impact on the Afar pastoralists: they often have to slaughter their few remaining animals because there is not enough food for them. Goat's milk, the most important food for their

young children, is not available in sufficient quantities. As a result, they are **chronically malnourished** and weakened, and often suffer from **diseases** typical of the region (cholera, diarrhoea, pneumonia, measles, whooping cough etc.).

WE DO NOT LEAVE THESE PEOPLE ALONE

Fortunately, in Ethiopia we can rely on our **trusted partner organisation APDA** (Afar Pastoralist Development Association), which knows the problems of the people and works with us to respond immediately to **emergencies** (with water supplies, supplementary food, animal feed, etc.).

However, the focus of our work is on **long-term support** (mobile health care, especially for mothers and children, education, awareness-raising, campaigning against FGM). A new, promising approach is **agricultural training** to provide the Afar with a path to greater food security and, as a result, their own income.

Cooperation partners 2024 Bundesministerium Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz

 Österreichische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit



Healthcare in the desert

Mobile aid for a nomadic people

In the Afar region, we provide access to basic **medical care** for around 150,000 semi-nomadic and often hard-to-reach people. Mobility and flexibility are key requirements for our 50 **mobile health workers**, 36 women's counsellors and 200 traditional birth attendants.

EXTREME LIVING CONDITIONS AND HUGE PROBLEMS

Our dedicated medical staff, all of whom are Afar themselves, go to great lengths to reach the widely scattered population. They often walk for hours, carrying medicines and medical equipment on their backs. They encounter emaciated people and malnourished, weak children who are prone to all kinds of diseases.



Valerie Browning teaching local birth

HOW WE HELP

Together with our partner organisation APDA, we ensure that babies and young children receive medical care and vaccinations, that pregnant women and new mothers are examined and cared for, and that births are attended. Supplementary food, water purification products, soap, etc. are distributed. Women with high-risk pregnancies are taken by ambulance to an observation centre or, if necessary, to hospital.

OUR WOMEN'S COUNSELLORS BREAK DOWN PATRIARCHAL STRUCTURES

They are the backbone of our educational work. In addition to **health**, **nutrition and hygiene issues**, they advise women on their **rights and**



opportunities in a male-dominated world. Sensitive topics such as genital mutilation, forced marriage, domestic violence, etc. are also addressed in lectures and one-on-one discussions. In this way, we aim to bring about long-term positive change by continuously raising awareness.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation and the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, without whose support these activities would not be possible. But for emergency relief in particular, private donations are more important than ever



Visit to the Head of the local Health authority in EliDar

THE SONNE HEAlth workers are constantly on duty

"UXXUXAYTO" stands for a better future

Our agricultural training centre is developing positively



The head of the food cooperative explains how the land is used to grow vegetables



We are impressed by the rich harvest that has become possible in the middle of the desert

The Afar have been nomadic cattle breeders and herders since time immemorial. As climate change is making this way of life increasingly difficult or even impossible, we are now teaching them agricultural skills in our new training centre, which we were able to open in 2022 thanks to the support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND CEREALS WILL ENSURE GREATER FOOD SECURITY

To date, **360 women and 120 men** have completed a six-week in-depth training programme. They then pass on their knowledge as "experts" in their villages. 24 women's cooperatives (20 members each) have already been formed to promote **agricultural development**.

In addition to advice, these cooperatives continue to receive support: this includes solar-powered water pumps, as well as seeds, seedlings and fertiliser so that cereals, maize, onions, papayas,

bananas, tomatoes and other crops can be grown. Substantial harvests have already been achieved. The yields must then be distributed, conserved or marketed. The first structures are already in place.

PROBLEMS ARE THERE TO BE DEALT WITH

The local administration is weak and inefficient. When problems arise, our partner organisation APDA (Afar Pastoralist Development Association) is usually the first point of contact.

The solar systems that power the water pumps have proved to be a critical issue. Although they are well anchored, extremely strong winds and cyclones damaged several systems in 2024 and even destroyed some of them completely.

We managed to reallocate funds and repair the damage quickly. We will do our utmost to ensure that the expansion of agriculture does not fail because of a lack of water so that the women can continue to feed their families and earn a little extra income!

The children of the Afar are particularly happy about the harvest



LET'S JOIN FORCES TO MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM!

Women's power in the Afar region SONNE in action

In December 2024, the SONNE team visited the Afar region to evaluate the ongoing projects. In addition to the agriculture and food security projects, we were particularly impressed by the **vital work of the Women Extension Workers**, who provide information in the villages on hygiene, women's rights and childbirth attendance – a crucial contribution to reducing maternal and infant mortality.

HOW OUR WOMEN EXTENSION WORKERS ARE CHANGING LIVES

For almost 20 years, the **Women Extension Workers (WEW)** have been working to empower women in the Afar region and combat harmful practices such as early marriage and FGM (female genital mutilation).



The SONNE team visiting Ethiopia

SONNE project coordinator and Africa expert Ulli Ebner asked the coordinator of the Women Extension Workers for an interview.

Ulli: Maryam, how has your work changed over the years?

Maryam: When I started ten years ago, our work was often rejected, especially by the men. Today, things have improved: We have become more professional and are able to pass on our knowledge about hygiene, obstetrics and women's rights to the communities in a much more purposeful manner.



Ulli: How do girls and women benefit from the programme?

Maryam: In the past, girls rarely went to school - now it is normal. Maternal mortality has dropped dramatically and women are increasingly contributing to the household income. Frequently, they also take on traditionally male tasks. The war in the Tigray region has also contributed to this.

Ulli: How does the local population react to these changes?

Maryam: Our work is respected now, even by the men. Clan leaders support us and we are welcomed in the villages. Harmful practices such as early marriage and FGM are much less common today.

Ulli: What comes next?

Maryam: EThere is still so much to do. The long distances to remote communities are an enormous challenge. But we'll definitely carry on - because all change starts with knowledge and education!

Ulli: Keep up the good work and all the best for the future!

Maryam (standing) has been working as a coordinator for the TBAs (traditional birth attendants) for over 10 years. Here with a group of women taking part in an annual refresher course.



Interview with Maryam: Valerie Browning, head of our Ethiopian partner organisation, and our Africa expert Ulli Ebner

BANGLADESH

Project overview and background

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2002

BENEFICIARIES

1000 children and young people, 50,000 Rohingya refugees & Bengali residents

PROJECTS

17 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, 2 school dormitories, 1 student hostel, 2 weaving workshops, 2 tailoring workshops, 3 computer training centres, 1 health station, several (mobile) health

PROJECT AREAS

Alikadam, Jhenaigati, Ukhiya, Dhaka

Cooperation partners 2024











Regular project visits by the chairman guarantee the high quality of our activities

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FALLEN THE FUTURE REMAINS UNCERTAIN

Following nationwide student protests, the unpopular, increasingly authoritarian government of long-time head of government Sheikh Hasina fell in August 2024. Since then, Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammad Yunus has led a military-backed interim government. Elections are due to take place by the end of 2025. The country has regained a degree of calm, but the future remains uncertain as various forces are pushing for power. There are great fears of increasing radicalisation or Islamisation in what has been a relatively stable and moderate country.



Economic development remains positive, with huge infrastructure projects (especially in the capital Dhaka) transforming Bangladesh. However, large sections of the population remain in abject poverty. Soaring food prices, working conditions often reminiscent

of slavery and catastrophic environmental **pollution** make life a constant challenge for 170 million people.

OUR SUCCESSFUL SONNE SCHOOLS MUST LIVE ON!

After two months of closure due to political unrest, all our projects supporting children, young people and women from disadvantaged ethnic minorities (see sidebar) can now continue undisturbed. Our staff at SONNE Bangladesh are doing an excellent job.

However, the takeover of the SONNE schools by the Bengali government is still a long way off, and it remains up to us to ensure their funding! In order to maintain the excellent quality of our educational programmes, we are in great need of additional funds.



SONNE schools bring progress to disadvantaged ethnic minorities A better future through education and training

In two regions of Bangladesh populated by impoverished ethnic minorities (Alikadam and Jhenaigati), SONNE-International has been providing education and knowledge for more than 20 years with its 17 primary and 2 secondary schools. The literacy rate has risen from less than 10% to an astonishing 84%!



HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE GO ON?

The children are motivated and love their lessons because they know that through education they can escape the poverty of their villages. Unfortunately, the Bengali government is currently unable to take over our schools. With global inflation hitting Bangladesh hard, we have to ask parents for (extremely low) contributions to pay our teachers and maintain the buildings. Another problem is posed by Koranic schools, which are free to attend but only teach the Koran and Arabic. As a result, our enrolment has fallen to around 1000 students.

Please support our quality education programme with your donation!



VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND INCOME GENERATION PAVE THE WAY TO A LIFE IN DIGNITY

In three computer training centres and three training workshops (two tailoring workshops, one weaving workshop), we teach young women and young people valuable skills that they can use to generate income.

Our animal breeding project, which provides financial support for our schools and additional income for around 25 families, was unfortunately a 'zero sum game' in 2024 (as some animals died), but is expected to produce better results in 2025.

KARATE GIVES OUR GIRLS CONFIDENCE

Our self-defence courses for schoolgirls, with which we are arming 120 girls against sexual assault, are very popular. They are made possible by the Austrian Ministry of Sport and by private donations.



The SONNE sponsored children

On the road to independence



Most of our sponsored children have already started university

In Bangladesh, SONNE gives talented young people the chance to be sponsored, ideally until they graduate from university.

All of the sponsored children are graduates of one of our **17 SONNE primary schools**, which offer children from neglected ethnic minorities a way out of poverty and hardship.

Currently, 45 young people benefit from a SONNE sponsorship. In 2024, two of them were able to complete their studies. Another six are expected to complete their education in 2025.

FLEXIBLE SUPPORT

Most of SONNE's sponsored children are accommodated in our own school or student residences. However, some continue their education in other cities,

where we support them financially (accommodation, tuition fees, living costs, etc.). In the long term, we plan to transform our sponsorship project into a **scholarship programme** to give the young people more freedom to plan their studies individually.

Our goal remains the same: to give motivated and talented young people from the poorest of backgrounds **opportunities in life** that they could not even dream of without support!



ENTIRE REGIONS WILL BENEFIT

Many of the young people supported in this way want to enter social professions one day (as doctors, nurses or teachers, but also as lawyers or civil servants) and use their energy to work for their respective village community or ethnic group. In this way, they will help to improve the situation in their (highly disadvantaged) regions of origin sustainably and in the long term!

SPONSORED CHILD MONG CHING HAI MARMA – WE ARE PROUD OF HIM!

When his father left the family, plunging them into great despair, Mong Ching Hai Marma's future looked bleak, but now the young man is about to graduate with a degree in political science.

Out of gratitude to his supporters, but also to help his ethnic group, he is now working with great vigour for SONNE Bangladesh.



Looking back on a successful mission

After eight years, the SONNE health centre has closed its doors

Since the violent expulsion of the Rohingya Muslim community from Myanmar in 2017, around one million people have found refuge in Kutupalong in Bangladesh, the world's largest refugee camp.

Conditions in the camp were chaotic, especially at the beginning of the crisis. There were – and still are – countless health problems, which are often due to the catastrophic living conditions such as overcrowding, severe environmental degradation, an inadequate drinking water supply and psychological problems of the often severely traumatised people.



In order to help in this emergency situation, SONNE-International set up an infirmary in the camp, where we looked after the well-being of around 50,000 people – with two doctors and several nurses.

This dedicated team did a great job, carrying out several hundred thousand medical treatments, vaccinations, examinations, referrals and counselling sessions (especially regarding birth control). An evaluation in 2021 found our approach to be 'particularly efficient and cost-effective'.

The project ended in February 2025 and larger organisations have taken over. We would like to thank the **Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation** for



making the operation of the infirmary possible, both on our behalf and on behalf of those affected.

OUR COMMITMENT CONTINUES

Our **mobile health centre**, which serves people in the surrounding area, whose lives have also been severely affected by the camp, will continue to operate at full capacity. Our medical team will continue to attend to people's health problems at **six locations**.

In the refugee camp, SONNE-International is planning to convert the former health centre into a training centre for skilled trades (electrical repair, plumbing, traditional crafts, etc.) in order to give these displaced people the opportunity to rebuild their lives.



TWO DOCTORS AND SEVERAL NURSES LOOKED AFTER THE WELL-BEING OF AROUND

50.000 PEOPLE.

MALAWI

Programme overview

By means of our sports and self-defence programme, we support schoolgirls on their educational path



Blantyre, Ntcheu and Mangochi districts (since 2024)

PROJECT DURATION

ongoing

BENEFICIARIES

>300 pupils

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children by promoting education and empowering girls and women through sports and self-defence courses



A look into a classroom in Malawi. Not every room has furniture.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a high infant mortali-

ty rate and low life expectancy. As agriculture makes up the largest part of the economy, the country is particularly hard hit by climate change. Food prices are currently rising so sharply that many parents no longer know how to feed their children.

Girls and women in particular are often the victims of this poverty. They are the most vulnerable to **violence** and **exploitation**. Frequently, they have no chance of a secondary education and are married off far too early. Girls who try to escape from child marriages

or are victims of violence need special support.

In collaboration with our local project partner, we will organize weekly sports and **self-defence courses** at two schools in the districts of Blantyre and Ntcheu, in which a total of 300 pupils can take part free of charge. The necessary **sports fields** have already been built.

In the Mangochi district, we will help 11 girls to **complete their schooling** so that they have a chance to break the cycle of poverty through education. By equipping them with hygiene products, school materials, school uniforms and paying their school fees, we will provide them with everything they need to complete school.

OUTLOOK 2025

- Continuation of our projects in the education and health sector
- Start of sports and self-defence courses
- Expansion of the informal programme for girls
- Additional workshops on reproductive rights, health and income generation

Cooperation partner 2024

Bundesministerium
 Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur,
 Medien und Sport

A new project country

More self-determination through school attendance and sports

In May 2024, the SONNE team travelled to Malawi in south-east Africa to familiarise themselves with the country and its people. Although Malawi has had a democratic government since 1993, it faces many problems due to widespread poverty. One of these is an **inadequately developed education system**, which particularly disadvantages girls, who often have to drop out of school after just a few years.

Our aim was to find reliable project partners, and we were successful. Everywhere we went, we received a very warm welcome. Both the "Save the Poor Foundation" (Blantyre and Ntcheu districts) and "Pamudzi Pathu" (Mangochi) impressed us and won us over with their daily commitment to helping their fellow human beings despite limited resources.



School instead of child marriage: our support makes this possible for girls at Chitale and Mpapa School.

BACK TO SCHOOL INSTEAD OF CHILD MARRIAGE

We support girls who have been freed from forced child marriages by paying their **school fees** and organising **work-shops** on reproductive health. This gives them the chance to get an education and a school-leaving certificate. Our new project partner, Pamudzi Pathu, is working with the entire local community to help these girls return to school. By supporting these schoolgirls, we are helping them to realise their right to **self-determination and education**,



and laying the foundations for a path out of poverty.

SPORT FOR GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION

The programme, which has already been tried and tested in our other project countries, has now been extended to Malawi. In collaboration with the Save the Poor Foundation, we are training teachers, constructing sports facilities, and introducing inclusive sports and self-defence programmes. Girls in particular are encour-

aged to participate in order to empower them and enable them to stand up for themselves. The first step was to build **sports fields** at both schools, which were completed in early 2025. During our project visit, we were able to appreciate the important work of our colleagues. On the far right is Alice, Head of our new partner organisation.



INDIA/ **BIHAR STATE**

Programme overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2012

PROJECT DURATION

ongoing

BENEFICIARIES

300 pupils, six orphans, over 100 women in training and 5,000 people from the surrounding villages

PROGRAMME or iective

Tong-term improvement in the general living conditions of disadvantaged children by increasing their level of education and access to medical care. Improving the role of girls and women in society.

People in rural India receive only very limited support for their development. Poverty is a defining feature of their lives. Bihar is the poorest Indian state. There are few educational facilities in remote villages, and people have little or no access to healthcare. Many children do not have the opportunity to attend a state school.

SONNE-International runs **two primary** schools where 300 pupils were taught free of charge in 2024. Six orphans are also cared for and looked after there.

Since 2014, we have been offering weekly self-defence courses to around 100 young girls, preparing them for sexual assault and strengthening their role within society. By setting up computer and tailoring courses, we provide women with the opportunity to further their education and gain more self-determination and financial independence.



Project manager Armin Mösinger with our Indian SONNE pupils

REVIEW 2024

- Our computer training project for women continued successfully in our schools in Basadhi and Bakrour
- · Our SONNE infirmary was in continuous operation and first aid courses were started
- The two primary schools were in continuous operation
- · A school garden was planted
- A volunteer was active in the project and a travelling group from Austria visited the projects
- · Another PV system was installed. All SONNE buildings are now energy self-sufficient
- · A tailoring project was started in another village



OUTLOOK 2025

- Continuation and expansion of all projects in the education, training and health sectors
- · Establishment of a digital medical record
- Start of a computer training project for women in another village
- · Renovation of the existing infrastructure
- Expansion of the education programme (e.g. secondary school classes) through an extension to the school building and the hiring of additional teachers
- Our self-defence courses will be supplemented by a course for advanced students













Education and health for the Dalits

Escaping the poverty trap through determination and knowledge

In Bihar, one of the poorest regions in South Asia, many children are unable to access education. Around 40 per cent of the population are illiterate. Those particularly affected are the children of the so-called ,untouchables' (or Dalits), who face significant social and economic discrimination.

SONNE SCHOOLS MAKE A DIFFER-ENCE AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

At our SONNE schools in Bakrour and Basadhi, we provide over 300 children with **free education**, **including learning materials and school uniforms**. More than half of our pupils are girls – for them, education means dignity and self-determination.

Our schools are situated close to the global pilgrimage site of Bodhgaya.



Nevertheless, the local population lives in great poverty, with many working as day labourers or small-scale farmers. Without our support, these families would not be able to afford to send their children to school.

NINA BRATL ON SITE - WHEN KNOWLEDGE CONNECTS

In December 2024, **civil engineer Nina Bratl** visited our projects in Bihar. She volunteered to support our local team in planning additional classrooms and inspired the children with yoga classes - a particular highlight of her stay. "For me, development work is above all an exchange of knowledge - a mutual give and take in which both sides learn and



grow from each other. By contributing my knowledge and skills, I not only support the local people, but also gain valuable new perspectives myself." (Nina Bratl) Her commitment and expertise were a great asset to our SONNE team on the

ground.

THE SONNE INFIRMARY – A TREMENDOUS GAIN IN PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Until recently, the inhabitants of Basadhi had hardly any access to medical help. That is why we have been running **our own SONNE infirmary** there since 2023 to offer the villagers high-quality, cost-free medical care.



Nina with SONNE teachers in Basadhi



Free medication dispensed in our infirmary

In the SONNE school garden, our pupils learn a lot about botany

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT with SONNE

Three SONNE projects in India are making a difference



3,650 days of fighting violence against girls and women

OUR KARATE SELF-DEFENCE COURSES HAVE BEEN BREAK-ING DOWN GENDER ROLES FOR 10 YEARS

Sexual assault is a major threat to Indian girls and women. That is why, **since 2014**, we have been offering regular self-defence courses three times a week for around 100 young girls at our SONNE schools in India. These courses are very popular with our schoolgirls. They regularly win medals at national competitions.

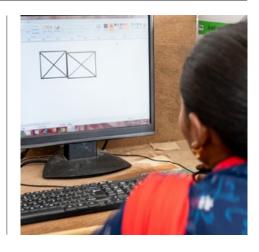
Alisa Buchinger, the 2016 karate world champion from Salzburg, has been a project sponsor since 2015 and has already visited India three times to train the girls in person. Here she explains why:

"I want to give back some of what I have received over the years. I can do that in India, with people who urgently need support. I'm already looking forward to my next trip to the project to train with the girls." (Alisa Buchinger)



Computer know-how – women become know-ledge brokers

In August 2024, **27 women** successfully completed our six-month computer training course. Places for the next cycle were filled immediately, as graduates of our courses gain more recognition and influence within their families and the wider village community thanks to their digital skills.



Our tailoring training was extended to another village

Following the great success of the tailoring training in Basadhi Village (where we run a SONNE primary school), we set up a **new training centre in another village** in June 2024, starting the courses at the beginning of August. The response was huge. This project will also

improve the role of women in the long term. When girls see that their mothers generate and manage their own income, they are motivated to learn a trade after completing primary school so that they can actively shape their lives later on.

Discovering the real India

an unforgettable project trip





In November 2024, a group of SONNE friends, patrons, sponsors and project partners travelled to the Indian state of Bihar to see for themselves the current state of the **SONNE schools**, **health centre** and **accompanying projects**.

The trip was organised by our dedicated Indian SONNE employees, supported by project manager Armin Mösinger, who has been coordinating the implementation of all SONNE projects in India since 2012.

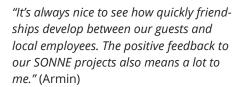
Another key aspect of the trip was the deepening of mutual understanding through participation in various festivals and events. One of the highlights of our trip was taking part in the traditional Chhath Puja festival. Dressed in traditional clothing, we experienced this impressive festival alongside the local population, away from the tourist trail. The spiritual atmosphere, the lights on the riverbank and the devotion of the people made these moments an unforgettable experience for all of us.

The festival also involves visiting people's homes, and we took the opportunity to find out more about the villagers' private lives.









Motivated by all the positive feedback, Armin has decided to fly to India every autumn with a group of SONNE friends to present the projects and introduce them to Indian culture. Unique contacts and experiences are guaranteed!



If you are interested in taking part in this trip and seeing for yourself the positive impact of our projects, please contact Armin directly: moesinger@sonne-international.org

MYANMAR

Programme overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2008

PROJECT AREA

Yangon and the surrounding area

BENEFICIARIES

Around 1,000 children and young people and their families

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Comprehensive care for vulnerable children and young people through education, tutoring, training, health, nutrition and family support



Kooperationspartner 2024





2024 was a challenging year for the people of Myanmar. **Political instability** continues and the economic situation is dire. Prices for food and everyday necessities have continued to rise, with many families living on the edge of subsistence. Especially in the slums of Yangon and in the refugee camps, there is a **lack of everything: income, medical care and, above all, opportunities**.



Many children have to work to help their families survive. **Attending school remains an unattainable dream for many.** Street children in Yangon in particular often live without any prospect of a decent life.



Together with our local partner organisation SONNE Social Organisation (SSO), we are working to combat this situation: With targeted education, training, health and support programmes, we are making concrete improvements to the lives of children, young people and their families.

SONNE project manager Armin Mösinger is regularly on site to supervise our projects

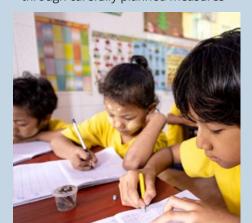


REVIEW 2024

- The SONNE support centre in Yangon looked after around 100 vulnerable children and young people on a daily basis throughout 2024
- Our three SONNE day care centres for 120 street children were open all year round. One day care centre moved to a new building
- Several campaigns were organised to distribute aid packages and hygiene products to families in need
- Thanks to our SONNE emergency fund, numerous medical emergencies could be treated quickly and efficiently - in slums, orphanages and refugee camps
- Over 80 women successfully completed a tailoring training programme and numerous young people completed a six-month computer course with a certificate

OUTLOOK 2025

- Continuation of all ongoing projects particularly in the area of education and vocational training
- Expansion of our support in the area of mobile healthcare
- Targeted further training for our local SONNE employees
- Strengthening our partnerships and cooperation with other local NGOs
- Support for earthquake victims through carefully planned measures



Collecting knowledge instead of rubbish

Our SONNE day care centres give children in the slums of Yangon hope

DESPITE CHAOS AND CRISIS: EDUCATION REMAINS OUR MOST POWERFUL TOOL

The political and economic situation in Myanmar remains tense. Especially in the slums of Yangon, survival is a daily struggle for many families. Their children have to work at markets, in tea rooms or collect rubbish to make a small contribution to the family income. Attending school is often out of the question.

This is exactly where our work comes in: since 2015, we have been running **three SONNE day care centres** in the poorest neighbourhoods of the city. Every day, around 120 street children are cared for there by our social workers, who provide them with **hot meals**, **basic medical care** and, above all, **access to education**.

Our goal is to prepare these children for entry into the public school system and to enable them to live with dignity.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION AND LEARNING SUPPORT

Many children do not have **birth certificates** or their families **cannot afford school materials**. Our social workers help the families overcome bureaucratic hurdles and provide the necessary materials.

In addition, external pupils receive free tutoring in our three day care centres every afternoon. In this way, we **combat the high drop-out rate in public schools** among children affected by poverty.

OUR MOBILE HEALTH CAMPS – THE FIRST PORT OF CALL FOR MANY PEOPLE IN NEED

For many families, our **health camps** are the only way to receive medical help. At several locations in Yangon – includ-



ing in remote slum areas – our **mobile health team** regularly carries out medical examinations and provides medicines through our **mobile pharmacy**.



Our help is particularly urgent in the **internally displaced persons' camps**, where many people live in precarious conditions. There, we not only provide basic medical care, but also regularly distribute food to families in need.



The SONNE day care centres give children from the slums a new perspective

Our SONNE team regularly visits refugee camps to provide people with medical treatment

SONNE tuition classes significantly reduce the dropout rate

Our SONNE support centre in Yangon

A safe haven for children from the slums



Our SONNE support centre is located in the middle of the densely populated and socially challenging urban area of Yangon. It is not only a place of learning for children and young people, but also the headquarters of our local partner organisation *SONNE Social Organisation* (SSO). In an environment characterised by poverty, a lack of prospects and insecurity, our centre provides structure, support and care for more than 130 children and young people every day.



Education, nutrition and care – daily and reliably

In two support classes, **over 50 children** from the surrounding slums receive **free and holistic care** from our dedicated social education workers. Without our support, many of them would not have access to formal education.

At the centre, they experience social **stability**, regular **lessons**, two **hot meals** a day and **medical and hygiene care**. Younger children are prepared for school attendance, while older children are supported in finding apprenticeships or places on further education programmes.

Successful learning – with free tutoring towards a formal school-leaving certificate

For many children from disadvantaged backgrounds, mainstream education can be extremely challenging. Social deprivation and a lack of learning support often lead to pupils dropping out of school.

Our **free tutoring courses** provide **around 40 children** with the support they need to pass their exams and continue their education successfully.



Professional training instead of dependency: real prospects for young people

In a region with high youth unemployment, we focus on practical training. Our **tailoring and computer courses** have proved particularly successful. In 2024, **over 100 young people** received an official course completion certificate from us – an important step towards achieving financial independence.

Demand is high as the acquired skills enable many of them to enter the local labour market.



The SONNE emergency fund in Myanmar

Our emergency fund enables us to help quickly and unbureaucratically. It focuses on the following areas:

1 - SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

We provide assistance when one of the **families** of our children is **in need**, as well as to communities, for example by supplying blankets, mosquito nets, school materials, and helping to repair huts damaged by the rainy season.

2 - HEALTHCARE

We fund medical treatment, emergency care, wheelchairs and health camps – especially for the children in our day care centres and their families.



This year, we were able to help many people, including Phyu: Phyu is seven years old and has suffered from chronic kidney disease since birth. Last year, her condition deteriorated dramatically. Thanks to the emergency fund, we were able to arrange a life-saving operation for her quickly. Today, Phyu is doing well and can learn and play with the other children again.

3 - INCOME SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

We support families of children in our day care centres who are in need by **helping them to generate income** (e.g. by starting a small business) or offering other assistance.

Often, a little support can make a big difference: Zaw Hmu is 20 years old and

partially paralysed. His dream is to become a bicycle mechanic. Thanks to the emergency aid fund, we were able to get him an apprenticeship at a bicycle and moped workshop. One day, he hopes to open his own bike shop!



4 - RAPID DISASTER RELIEF

Floods hit the Toungoo region of Myanmar hard in September 2024. Thanks to the **SONNE emergency fund**, we were able to provide quick and efficient support to families who had lost everything. Initial steps were taken to stabilise the affected communities.

While other aid organisations were still mobilising, our local SONNE team was already distributing food and clothing, and providing initial medical aid.





Jochen Meissner and San San Hla coordinate the emergency fund in Myanmar

Austria OveRview

SONNE-INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Vienna (3rd district), Austria, since 2002

OUR TEAM

8 employees (core team), 20 volunteers



At our office, we always enjoy visitors! But please call us beforehand to make sure we are available (Phone +43 677 61 77 0365)



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN OUR VIENNA OFFICE?

Our small, inconspicuous SONNE headquarter – **the organisation**-

al heart of SONNE-International – is located in the midst of the city. What happens here? Not that easy to list!

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

This is where everything comes together: strategic decisions, financial management, accounting, personnel administration and the entire internal organisation that keeps our projects, teams, partnerships and collaborations running smoothly and efficiently.

PROJECT COORDINATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

We are in constant contact with our local teams and provide them with technical and organisational support. We keep an eye on schedules and budgets and regularly travel to the project countries to develop new ideas and solutions together.

PROJECT FINANCING AND FUNDRAISING

No projects without financing – which is why we work intensively on funding applications, foundation enquiries, do-

nation campaigns and the development of partnerships here in Austria and elsewhere. The entire financial process is handled by Vienna – from applications, coordination of incoming donations and transactions to annual financial statements.

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION

We act as the link between funding organisations, donors, and our project teams. One of our core activities is reporting, which is essential to ensure transparency. Moreover, we highlight areas where support is needed and launch donation appeals so that we can respond quickly in emergency situations.

STORYTELLING AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Taking a close look is the first step towards change. We use social media, photography, films and presentations to draw attention to grievances and to raise awareness.

MARKETING AND EVENTS

We seize every opportunity to strengthen and expand our SONNE community. Whether through our website or smaller events, such as our annual bike challenge, we do everything in our power to foster team spirit and provide opportunities to contribute to our mission and make the world a better place for as many people as possible.





Assuming responsibility as an entrepreneur

as an entrepreneurYour tailor-made CSR programme together with SONNE-International

Social responsibility and authentic commitment are more important today than ever before. SONNE-International offers your company customized opportunities to embrace these values and combine charitable work with meaningful, sustainable aid projects.

Since 2002, we have been giving disadvantaged children and young people in Bangladesh, Ethiopia India, Myanmar, and Malawi a chance to improve their lives through education, healthcare and women's empowerment.

YOUR COMMITMENT - MORE THAN JUST DONATIONS

Together with you, we develop a CSR concept that authentically reflects your corporate values and at the same time achieves measurable positive results. In addition, we create emotional ties that go beyond purely financial support.

ADVANTAGES FOR YOUR COMPANY THROUGH BENEFIT PACKAGES TAI-LORED TO YOUR NEEDS

- Employee retention & motivation: Increase your employees' identification with your company through meaningful engagement.
- **Employer branding:** Position your company as a responsible employer.
- Increase brand awareness: Use professionally prepared content for your social media channels.
- Tax benefits: Donations to SONNE-International are tax-deductible in Austria.

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Many companies have already realised sustainable projects with us in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Ethiopia. You can find detailed information on our partnerships and their success stories on our website. The logos of our current corporate partners can be found on the last page of this annual report.



"I am really impressed by the work of SONNE-International. As a supporter – both privately and through our agency LEADS&CONTENT – I witness how this collaboration strengthens our social commitment, reflects our values and connects us with other responsible companies."

Dominik Frey, LEADS&CONTENT

JOIN US IN SHAPING A BETTER FUTURE

Start your successful and sustainable partnership with SONNE-International NOW!

SONNE-Chairman Erfried Malle looks forward to exchanging ideas with you:

malle@sonne-international.org Phone +43 699 194 560 52

A SONNE sponsorship is an active contribution to a fairer world





REGULAR SUPPORT ENABLES SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

We are grateful for every donation, and we strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for our protégés. However, we are particularly pleased when we can rely on **regular payments**. We call these reliable supporters our **SONNE sponsors**.

For over two decades, our sponsors have played a key role in ensuring the ongoing operation of our education and health projects through their consistent, frequently long-term support.

Reliable contributions via monthly standing orders are the basis for our ability to establish and maintain long-term structures.

SONNE SPONSORSHIPS HELP PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

Many of our support programmes – such as the operation of schools or basic medical care – **do not receive any public**

project funding for running costs. Our sponsors' contributions help to secure salaries for teachers, medical staff and social workers. They provide children with an education, empower women through vocational training and give disadvantaged families access to medical care.

FLEXIBLE, TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE

The amount of your monthly contribution is for you to decide - without any commitment. You can allocate your support specifically to one of the priority countries or generally to the most urgent projects. All sponsorship contributions are **tax-deductible in Austria**, and administrative costs remain low.

SPONSORS BECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

As part of the SONNE family, sponsors receive regular updates on progress and developments and thus become part of our projects.

BECOME A SONNE SPONSOR NOW AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE: www.sonne-international.org/sonne-patenschaft/



Seven reasons why a SONNE donation benefits EVERYONE

EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE

We have over 22 years' experience in international cooperation and implementing sustainable projects.

STRONG DONOR NETWORK

We have many years of experience working with public funding organisations such as the *Austrian Development Agency* and the *Austrian Ministry of Sport*, as well as renowned foundations such as the *Else Kröner Fresenius Foundation* and *RedChairity*. We also work with private companies and a great community of individual donors.

3 CONCEPTUAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Professional project management and trusting cooperation with well-net-worked local teams who are highly trained experts in their field. Regular monitoring trips and continuous quality assurance guarantee sustainable and effective project implementation.

EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

We work with minimal administrative effort. A long-standing network of corporate partnerships helps minimise running costs in Austria. Donations arrive where they are needed!

FOCUS ON LOCALISATION

Direct project implementation by our SONNE branches and partners. We take appropriate measures to strengthen our local colleagues in order to ensure that the projects meet local needs. Further training and professional support ensure sustainable cooperation on an equal footing.



MARGINALISED REGIONS AND REMOTE PROJECT LOCATIONS

We work in remote and/or neglected regions. In emergencies, we are often the first to provide on-the-ground assistance, bypassing bureaucratic hurdles and lengthy decision-making processes.

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Creative and innovative solutions are developed in collaboration with target communities. Strong local networks ensure that our projects have a long-term impact and improve living conditions in the affected regions sustainably.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

In Austria, your donation is taxdeductible!







FOR YOUR DONATION, PLEASE USE OUR SONNE DONATION ACCOUNT:

Recipient: **SONNE-International**

BAWAG PSK

IBAN: **AT79 6000 0005 1006 1977**

BIC: BAWAATWW

Simply scan the QR code and donate online



Transparency, quality assurance and impact measurement

at SONNE-International



Project manager Armin Mösinger with the health team after a joint evaluation of our health project in India

TRANSPARENCY AT SONNE-INTERNATIONAL

We report openly and comprehensibly on our work. We publish an annual report containing a detailed financial overview, verified by an independent auditor, and we provide regular updates on project progress on our website and in digital and postal newsletters.

Thanks to close collaboration with our local teams, we always know what is happening on the ground and can quickly inform our donors of any changes or

challenges. We disclose all partnerships and funding sources – both online and in the annual report – so that donors can see exactly where their support is going.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AT SONNE-INTERNATIONAL

means professional and longterm project work with experienced teams.

Many of our colleagues have been with SONNE for a very long time – the majority for over ten years – both in Vienna and in the project countries. This fosters trust, expertise and a robust institutional memory.

Our Austrian project managers are regularly on site to carry out monitoring, maintain personal contacts and provide training support to our local partners. In addition, our activities are continuously evaluated as part of donor projects.

This ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of our work, and enables us to learn from mistakes.

IMPACT MEASUREMENT AT SONNE-INTERNATIONAL

We set clear project-specific goals and measure progress using appropriate indicators.

We continuously incorporate feedback from the local community, as well as from our local teams and partners. This helps us to develop and adapt the projects to current needs.



SONNE-International's finances – transparency is our concern

How your donations were used in 2024

SOURCE OF FUNDS - REVENUES 2024

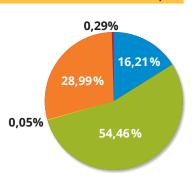
I. Donations		
a) Uncommitted donations	EUR	261.160,66
b) Earmarked donations	EUR	877.613,74
II. Membership fees	EUR	800,00
III. Public grants and subsidies	EUR	467.224,57
IV. Other income		
Asset management (interest)	EUR	4.725,21
Total	EUR	1.611.524,18

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS - EXPENSES 2024

I. Expenses for statutory purposes (project costs)	EUR	1.243.432,18
II. Fundraising	EUR	41.967,43
III. Administration costs	EUR	46.874,79
IV. Allocation to project reserves (for subsequent years)	EUR	279.249,78
Total	FLIR	1 611 524 18

SOURCE OF FUNDS

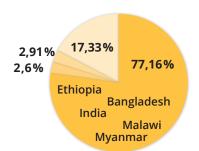
Uncommitted donations:	16,21%
Earmarked donations:	54,46%
Membership fees:	0,05%
Public grants and subsidies:	28,99%
Other income:	0,29%



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Distribution according to the specifications of the Austrian Seal of Approval for Donations

Expenses for statutory purposes:	7,16%
Fundraising:	2,60%
Administration costs:	2,91%
Allocation to project reserves:	7,33%



THE BOARD OF SONNE-INTERNATIONAL:

Mag. Erfried Malle, chairman, Mag. Edda Hauke, vice-chairwoman, Mag. Barbara Richter, treasurer

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS: Mag. Erfried Malle

DATA SECURITY OFFICER: Bakk, techn. Alexander Haberl

DONATION OFFICER: Sabine Braun



Sponsors and Partners



















































Public Funding Bodies and Foundations







Bundesministerium Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz Bundesministerium Wohnen, Kunst, Kultur, Medien und Sport













Stiftung Südostasienhilfe